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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2559
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 8174
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0358
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ APR 9411
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 1623
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 6824
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY 4422

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 001596

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FOR WHA/AND

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/30/2018

TAGS: [SNAR](#) [PTER](#) [CO](#)

SUBJECT: KEY NARCO-TRAFFICKER 'MELLIZO' KILLED IN POLICE
OPERATION

Classified By: Political Counselor John S. Creamer
Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (U) Minister of Defense Juan Manuel Santos announced April 29 that Victor Manuel Mejia Munera (Sebastian), co-head of the Los Nevados drug cartel and a former United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) member, was killed in Antioquia during an operation by Colombia's judicial police (DIJIN). Santos said Mejia was Colombia's most wanted criminal, since the capture of major narcotrafficking kingpin Diego Leon Montoya Sanchez (Don Diego) in September 2007. Mejia allegedly purchased his membership in the AUC to benefit from the Justice and Peace Law (JPL); in August, 2006 the GOC announced he was no longer part of the JPL process and was considered a fugitive after he failed to report to the La Ceja detention facility.

¶2. (U) Victor Manuel and his twin brother Miguel Angel, known together as "Los Mellizos" (The Twins), led the Los Nevados cartel, a criminal group that has recruited demobilized paramilitaries and operates largely in Northeastern Colombia (Sierra Nevada de Santa Maria, Southern Bolivar, Central Magdalena, and Cordoba). Miguel Angel remains at large.

¶3. (U) Bogota daily El Tiempo reported Mejia did not use telephones for fear of wire-tapping, and instead issued orders via tape and video recordings. Police Director General Oscar Naranjo said an informant identified Mejia in a public location. The operation was a result of a month-long stake-out resulting from the informant's tip-off. Santos said the informant would receive a \$5 million reward from the USG.

¶4. (C) The USG requested the extradition of Victor Manuel Mejia in 2002 and of Miguel Angel Mejia in 2000.
BROWNFIELD